

Subscription prices, in advance, for 1896:
Six Months, do \$10 00
Three Months, do 5 00
Single Copies, do 10 cents.
Subscribers in Victoria will be supplied by the
carriers for 25 cents a week.

THE WEEKLY COLONIST.

Published every Tuesday morning.

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THE BRITISH COLONIST

Thursday Morning, March 15, 1866.

To Advertisers and the Public

THE DAILY BRITISH COLONIST published every morning (Sundays excepted) in the largest and most widely circulated journal in the colony. It contains the most interesting and valuable news from all parts of the world. Subscribers may have the same left at their residence at 25 cents per week, by forwarding their address at the Office of Publication.

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST, published every Thursday, may be had at the residence of Subscribers, ready for mailing, at 10 cents per week, payable to the carrier.

JOB PRINTING.

THE BRITISH COLONIST has a large addition to their stock of new and beautiful printing types, by which they are enabled to execute with neatness and dispatch, at a slight advance on San Francisco prices.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES. In future all notices of Births, Deaths, and Marriages intended for insertion in this paper must be prepaid at the following rates: For Births, \$1.00; for Deaths, \$1.00; for Marriages, \$1.00; for Deaths, \$1.00; for Marriages, \$1.00.

LEGISLATIVE.

The Ways and Means bill passed through Committee yesterday and will come up for final reading to-morrow. Those bills are, first, the repeal of the real estate tax, the repeal of the salary tax, the levying \$5 a ton on imported hay, \$2 50 a thousand on rough, and \$5 on dressed lumber imported; a reduction in the country liquor license to \$50, and an amendment to the liquor license act to the effect that no person applying for a license shall be required to pay any arrears due by the person previously occupying the house. A reduction is also made in the annual \$10 license to \$5, and a reduction in the tax on imported milk cows from \$4 to \$1 per head. The permit on lumber is modified, so as to allow a drawback on lumber used for boat building purposes. The \$250,000 loan bill also passed through Committee. Altogether the bills reflect credit on the Assembly. They provide for the reduction made in the supply by the abolition of those acts which have heretofore worked so badly, and which have caused no end of discontent. The new taxes levied are imposed on articles that will, in the course of a very little time be produced in sufficient quantities on the Island to supply the local demand. All that is required on the part of the members is to push through the work as they have begun, and not exhibit those signs of premature exhaustion which showed themselves so prominent during the past few weeks. It is, however, gratifying to know that thirty-eight bills have been already brought forward and carried through various stages of progress in the Lower House. If the Legislative Council will show anything like the same industry the work of the session will be speedily brought to a close.

THE FRASER RIVER TRAVEL.

From accounts received yesterday from British Columbia the necessity of suspending travel to Big Bend for some time to come is painfully apparent. The difficulty of obtaining provisions is the misfortune which we have all along dreaded, and it will be one productive of the most serious results if those who are bent on visiting the mines early do not take steps to avoid it. Under no circumstances can the mines have a speedy test, unless the miners become their own packers. There are various, but excellent reasons why commercial enterprise the present year will not or cannot assume the responsibility of pushing through goods before the season properly opens, and it therefore devolves on the miners and on them alone to bring in the early supplies. It is well that this fact should be generally known; for we believe with all the warning notes many have already left Victoria for the new gold fields totally unprepared. Of course, they will have to come back and thus throw a certain amount of discommodation on those intending to give Big Bend a trial; but we hope no further mistakes will be made, and that men before leaving Victoria will take with them a sufficient quantity of goods to carry them through the first month or so on the mines. This will answer many excellent purposes. In the first place it will prevent a stampede back, in the second it will enable the miners to take advantage of the low stage of water in many places which might not be workable at a later period, and in the third it will reduce the price of those provisions that will be forwarded to the mines to a figure that will not merit the term extortionate. In another six weeks plenty of goods will be on their way. Wright's road will be fit for travel by wagons, and the steamer Marton will be running on the lakes. Freight will be cheap, and every facility will be afforded both for the transit of provisions and the transmission of miners. We only hope that no ill-advised combinations on any part of the route will be entered into that may interfere with this programme. We do not express this hope without some reason to dread the shortsightedness occasionally displayed by companies and individuals who have the control for the time being of the carrying trade. No later than last week advantage was taken of an accident to a steamer on the Fraser to raise the fare from New Westminster to Yale from fifty cents to five dollars—rather a startling jump. We do not mean to say that fifty cents would pay any steamer to take passengers from New Westminster to Yale; it would, in fact, be much better to the public as well as to the steamer owners, to have a proper and established price—but to jump a thousand per cent. inside twenty-four hours is a freak that will ultimately injure everybody; for it will destroy the faith of travellers in the route. Let the merchants, the steamer owners, the stage companies, the packers and the hotel keepers combine if they like, but by they desire that the travel to Big Bend shall go by way of the Fraser, let their combinations be rather to afford facilities to the miner, than to throw obstacles in his way.

TO LOAN.

SEVERAL SUMS TO LOAN ON APPROVED SECURITY.

TO BE LET.

HOUSES, COTTAGES, AND ROOMS IN THE CITY AND SUBURBS.

RAY TAVERN.

THE UNDERSIGNED HAS MUCH pleasure in notifying his friends and the public that he has opened the above place of retreat, at the Head of Victoria Arm, for the accommodation of pleasure seekers and travellers. The best Wines, Liquors and Cigars will be dispensed at the bar.

NOTICE OF CO-PARTNERSHIP.

HUMAN LEWIS AND LOUIS ANTHONY have this day entered into partnership, and have taken the name of HUMAN LEWIS & ANTHONY, in the Brick Store on Yates street, next door to the corner of Government street.

Messrs. Lewin & Anthony

Desire to inform their friends and the public in general that they will constantly keep a good assortment of

GENUINE HAVANA CIGARS

AND THE

Best Brands of Tobacco

Imported direct for this market; and they will be able to compete with any house on this Island, either wholesale or retail.

ALBION HOUSE,

FORT STREET, V.I.

GENUINE PICKLES

Has just received by Express

A LARGE AND BEAUTIFUL ASSORTMENT

OF—

SPRING AND SUMMER

Mantles and Jackets

In Black and Colored Cloths,

Tweed, Velveteens, Silk, Waterproof, and other varieties.

Mrs. P. most respectfully solicits an early inspection of these choice goods.

WHOLESALE OR RETAIL.

PHENIX

FIRE ASSURANCE

COMPANY

LOMBARD STREET & CHANCERY CROSS

LONDON.

[ESTABLISHED IN 1782.]

For Insuring every kind of Property in all parts of the World from Loss or Damage by Fire.

LECTURE.

MR. THOMAS H. BUCKLEY, B.A., will deliver a LECTURE, at BUCKLEY'S, on ST. PATRICK'S DAY. The Lecture will commence at 8.30 o'clock p.m. Admission free.

REMOVAL.

THE HARDWARE STORE OF EDGAR & MARVIN has been removed from the corner of Fort and Langley streets to the store lately occupied by Messrs. Gault, David & Co., where it will continue at 3.30 o'clock p.m. Admission free.

In the Estate of Lamont & Morton.

A DIVIDEND IN THE ABOVE ESTATE of Fifteen Cents on the Dollar is hereby declared payable, on SATURDAY, the 17th inst., at my office, store street, to all creditors who have claimed their claims.

ADAM WATSON, Executor and Assignee.

Victoria, V.I., March 15, 1866.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

NOTICE.

IN THE ESTATE OF DASCH & BECKER.

BY ORDER OF HIS LORDSHIP CHIEF JUSTICE SEDGWICK, the first dividend of TWENTY per centum has been declared this day in the above estate. Creditors who have proved their claims up to this date are requested to call for their dividend upon the Trade Assignee, I. BRAVERMAN, Tobaccoist, Bank of British Columbia, 156, Victoria, March 15, 1866.

Yates street, opposite the Bank of British Columbia, March 15, 1866.

In the Supreme Court of Civil Justice for Vancouver Island.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

In the matter of the Queen Charlotte Mining Company, (limited).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT ALL persons having claims against the above named Company, are required to prove their claims forthwith, and give notice to Daniel Lindsay, of Fort Street, Victoria, V.I., the Official Liquidator, or to the undersigned, FRANKS & GREEN, Solicitors, Government Street, Victoria, V.I., m14

FOUND.

ON GOVERNMENT STREET, VICTORIA, a SAFE KEY. The same may be had on application at the Collector's office, by description and payment of advertisement. m14

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

NOTICE.

IN THE ESTATE OF DASCH & BECKER.

BY ORDER OF HIS LORDSHIP CHIEF JUSTICE SEDGWICK, the first dividend of TWENTY per centum has been declared this day in the above estate. Creditors who have proved their claims up to this date are requested to call for their dividend upon the Trade Assignee, I. BRAVERMAN, Tobaccoist, Bank of British Columbia, 156, Victoria, March 15, 1866.

Yates street, opposite the Bank of British Columbia, March 15, 1866.

In the Supreme Court of Civil Justice for Vancouver Island.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

In the matter of the Queen Charlotte Mining Company, (limited).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT ALL persons having claims against the above named Company, are required to prove their claims forthwith, and give notice to Daniel Lindsay, of Fort Street, Victoria, V.I., the Official Liquidator, or to the undersigned, FRANKS & GREEN, Solicitors, Government Street, Victoria, V.I., m14

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THE BRITISH COLONIST

Thursday Morning, March 15, 1866.

COMMERCIAL

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

ENTRINED.
March 15—Ship Mayflower, Maxwell, Salt Spring Island.
Str Emily Harris, Frain, Nanaimo.
Str Lady Franklin, Pritchard, San Juan.
Str Thordike, Thornton, San Juan.
CLEARED.
Mar 14—Ship Mayflower, Maxwell, Salt Spring Island.
Str Emily Harris, Frain, Nanaimo.
Str Emily Harris, Frain, Nanaimo.
Str Emily Harris, Frain, Nanaimo.
Str Emily Harris, Frain, Nanaimo.

ARRIVED.

At Yale, B. C., on the 9th inst., by the Rev. R. Johnson, Mr. Charles Evans to Mrs. Jane Wells, both of Yale, and formerly of Canada West.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The steamer Enterprise arrived yesterday from New Westminster with 23 passengers and an express. The Rev. T. Somerville was on board.

We have no later intelligence from Cariboo but news from other portions of British Columbia is interesting and important.

The Reliance got down on Monday and was beached for repairs. The *Columbian* says her injuries were not so serious as was supposed.

The Lillooet got off Marler's Bar on Monday evening, and proceeded to Yale, where she left on Friday and reached New Westminster the same night, bringing down a few passengers and Dr. Nelson's Express. The *Columbian* adds: She has sustained little or no damage, and will make her regular trip to day. The weather at Yale was pleasant, and it was expected that the steamer would commence running next week. No news of importance.

CUSTOMS' RECEIPTS for week ending Saturday, March 12, 1866. Duties (import), \$14,434.89; do (export), \$20; tonnage dues, \$88.14; headmoney, \$216.81; harbor dues, \$154.24; fines and seizures, \$16.67. Total, \$15,140.23. Number of passengers entering at this port during same period, 223.

From Shuswap and Big Bend.

IMPORTANT NEWS.

Mr. Louis Vernet, who arrived yesterday by the Enterprise from Thompson River, says, about 180 men were on Cache Creek unemployed. Owing to the severity of the weather and there being nothing to do for those who were short of funds. Some were talking of returning.

We have been permitted to make the following extract from a private letter dated Little Shuswap Lake, 18th February: "I have not heard much news from the mines (Big Bend) only that the accounts we heard in Victoria are substantiated. On the way up D— came on with a party of men with whom he was acquainted; they have claims on one of the creeks, at Big Bend, out of which they took, in one day, forty ounces from an open cut five feet in width; this I think is perfectly reliable. They advised D— to go up early, but the great want is grub, as there is none in there, and will not be till late in the season. It will be as well to bring the horse if you possibly can, and as much grub as possible; in fact I expect mining tools will be very scarce at the outlet and rubber boots and coats altogether. A considerable number of buildings are going up at Seymour. Messrs. Smith & Lader have completed one building 25x40 feet, and they have two others in course of construction. Twenty acres of excellent ice have been put up by their agent."

The snow was four feet deep at Seymour, and the lakes were frozen over sufficiently strong for teaming. He met two teams laden with goods in the way across the lake. A considerable number of buildings are going up at Seymour. Messrs. Smith & Lader have completed one building 25x40 feet, and they have two others in course of construction. Twenty acres of excellent ice have been put up by their agent."

George Ruxton, of Cairnes Creek, and four others, had come over. They crossed over from Columbia river in two days, without the use of snow shoes, the road being well beaten by Smith & Lader's dog team. They report the weather very cold and the Columbia river frozen solid, but bring no mining news of importance. The snow is said to be ten feet deep upon the summit between Seymour and the Columbia river, and had it not been for the enterprise of Smith & Lader, in keeping the road open and sending over provisions at great expense, not only would communication be cut off but there would be no means of getting the goods down to the people at Seymour, as well as in the mines, speak in the highest terms of the enterprise of these men, not only in opening up the country and supplying the half-starved prospectors last year, but in keeping open communication in the winter, and sending in provisions while others are hoarding up for a more favorable opportunity. Smith & Lader have six dog-teams steadily employed in carrying provisions over the trail, and are well on their way to keeping the trail open, anything else. There are three dogs to each team, and they average one hundred pounds to the dog, the round trip occupying from eight to nine days.

At the head of the little lake Cap. Moore has his boat nearly completed. It will carry about forty tons, and is a smart looking craft. At the foot of the same lake the Hudson Bay Company's party, about 60 strong, are now getting out and preparing materials for the new steamer "Martin." The keel was laid, and the work was being pushed forward.

In the neighborhood of Kamloops there was little or no snow, and stock was grazing well. On his way down our informant met large numbers of people going in. The miners wintering at Seymour spoke of starting for the mines in a few days.

HOME PRODUCTIONS—Some splendid Island cured hams and sides are now for sale in this city by grocers.

New Westminster—Miners and others going to Big Bend or Bridge River will find Hicks' Hotel (which is now kept by W. E. Stein, formerly of the Hot Springs) one of the best and cleanest houses in the city—Meals and Beds at 50 cents each, and Drinks 12½ cents. * 3m

TRIPS TO CARIBOO.—Mrs. Digby Palmer holds her dancing classes at the Germania Sing Verein Hall, Royal Exchange Buildings, Government street every Wednesday and Saturday evening from 8 until 11 o'clock. Terms \$5 per month.

CAUTION TO MINERS GOING TO BIG BEND.—No one should start for these mines without being quite sure that his tools are in good order. F. W. Cave, Dentist, Traction Alley, opposite the *Colonist* office, is still practicing his profession at English prices.

PRINCE OF WALES—Oxford Hats, received from "Domings" from Townsend & Co., London.—A fine invoice of the above very stylish and fashionable Hats.—Ans. Pioneer Hatter, Government street and Traction Alley.

The Deputation appointed by the public meeting on Thursday night waited upon His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government for the purpose of promoting the objects of the meeting. His Excellency received the Deputation very graciously, and entered freely into a discussion of the subject matter of the resolutions. After a short and a half's conversation the Deputation took leave of His Excellency, impressed with his earnest desire to avoid inflicting an injury upon any interest in the colony.—*Columbian*. (Query—What were Mr. Biele's impressions?—Ed. Col.)

THE MONTANA MINES—We are in possession of correspondence from the heart of the most haunted Montana Mines in the Blackfoot Country, giving a different and as we believe a much more truthful account of that country than anything that reaches the eye through the press of Idaho, Oregon, or Washington Territory. The writer gives a detailed account of the mines, and to come of the mass of the miners who emigrate thither. We shall publish his letter in our next.

PAINFUL DEATH—A fine little boy, younger son of Mrs. Eberhardt, after three or four days of great suffering, died on Monday last of inflammation of the bronchial passages. The united efforts of several medical gentlemen who were called in were unavailing to save the little sufferer's life. Much sympathy is felt for the widowed mother. We believe it is her intention to remove the body for interment to the family vault, Lone Mountain Cemetery, San Francisco, where the remains of the late Mr. Eberhardt are buried.

NEW IDEAS—There was a first-rate attendances last night at this place of amusement, and the performances gave satisfaction. The new talent proved a great acquisition, and were well received. Tom Lalout and Little Nell worked hard and were also loudly applauded. To-night the hall will be again open with a capital array of attractions.

THE STEAMERS—A telegraphic despatch announces the arrival of the Labouchere on the ninth inst. three days (7) from Victoria. She left Victoria on the afternoon of the third. No mention is made of the arrival of the Active, but a telegram received on Saturday last by the Enterprise in answer to a letter despatched by her to San Juan would indicate her arrival prior to the 9th.

VERNAL—Yesterday was as a bright mild spring day. The budding trees, sprouting green grass, chirruping birds, and above all, the presence of crickets and others on Reason Hill enjoying field sports, took one in imagination into the glorious months of May and June. Some scratch horse races took place during the day.

BALL—The Committee of Management for the ball to take place to-morrow, St. Patrick's Eve, in Buckley's Hall, are straining every nerve to render the entertainment worthy of the occasion. A good quadrille band has been secured, under Bandmaster Haines, V. R. C., and we hear that the attendance will be large.

THE BOYS—We are glad to be able to state that the new iron buoys are being placed in position at the mouth of the river. The Government have chartered the steamer Hope for the purpose. The Hope went down yesterday with a number of the buoys on board.—*Columbian*.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY—Sons of Erin and their friends are requested to bear in mind that Mr. Terence B. Maguire, B. A., will lecture in Buckley's Hall on St. Patrick's Day at half-past 3 o'clock.

THE SALT SPRING VACANCY—We omitted to notice in our last issue that Mr. E. Malandaine, a former settler on the above island, is a candidate for the representation of that constituency.

EX ROUTE TO BIG BEND—We regret that we cannot find room this morning for a highly interesting letter from our travelling Big Bend correspondent.

REMOVED—Mr. Edgar Marvin, hardware merchant, has removed from Fort street to the store on Wharf street lately occupied by Messrs. Guild, David & Co.

FOR PORTLAND—The schooner Crosby, Captain Ketchum, will sail for Portland at the end of the week.

H.M.S. SCOUT left yesterday for San Juan Harbor to recover the anchors lost some time since by H.M.S. Tribune.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY, March 14th, 1866.
The Speaker took his seat at 11.15 p.m. Present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, McClure, Trimble, Dickson, Cochrane, Carswell.

ROAD ACT.
Dr. Powell gave notice of motion to enquire into the working of the present Road Act and to report thereon.

SANJIMO INCORPORATION ACT.
Mr. McClure moved the second reading of this bill, which was agreed to and the bill ordered to be committed.

BILL TO EXPLAIN AND AMEND VICTORIA INCORPORATION ACT.
This bill also passed a second reading and was ordered to be committed.

INVESTMENT SOCIETY.
Dr. Powell moved the second reading of a bill to encourage the establishment of an investment, saving, and loan society which was agreed to.

ASSOCIATION OF LIQUOR LICENSEE ACT.
Houses in Committee of the Whole, Dr. Trimble in the chair.

Mr. DeCosmos moved an amendment to the amendment of Mr. Cochrane exempting parties taking out licenses from the payment of license on taking over a license. He advocated free trade under the Liquor Act. Mr. Cochrane withdrew his amendment in favor of the last, as it expressed the same ideas only in stronger and better language.

After some discussion the motion was carried and the remaining clauses passed. Mr. Cochrane here left.

HARBOR DUES AMENDMENT ACT.
The bill amending the Harbor Dues Act, 1865, as to taxes imposed by the House on lumber and hay, passed and was amalgamated with the Esquimaux Act and Ports of Entry Act, 1863.

The first item in the schedule providing the payment of \$1.50 on all invoices of \$100 and under passed with final approval. On the second item of 50 cents on every \$100 over the first \$100.

The motion was lost, Drs. Helmecken and Powell voting for it, and the balance of the bill was carried.

On the 5th of \$5 per ton on hay and \$5 permit on potatoes, etc., Messrs. Helmecken, Powell and Carswell voted contra, reducing it to a tie vote, and the chairman gave his casting vote, as he, in favor of the farmer, and the house passed.

The lumber tax, \$5 per 1000 feet on dressed, and \$2.50 on rough.

Dr. Dickson moved that the tax be expunged, as he thought it impugned at the present juncture. He alluded to the question of expensive mills at Burrard Inlet, costing \$50,000, which would be virtually excluded from the market in Vancouver Island, and would prove injurious to this island. He desired the lumber regulated.

Dr. Helmecken thanked the hon. gentleman for entertaining views on this subject which

were opposed to his views on the other subjects where the hon. gentleman applied. (Hear, hear, from Dr. Powell.)

Mr. DeCosmos asked the hon. member for the District whether he considered the mills at Alberni, Sooke, and Shawigan, as impugned at the present juncture. He (Mr. DeCosmos) intended to introduce a clause granting a drawback on lumber used for boat building.

Dr. Dickson said he would vote for the tax, if British Columbia were exempted. He (Mr. DeCosmos) intended to introduce a clause granting a drawback on lumber used for boat building.

Dr. Helmecken opened fire on the hon. member for the city for now supporting the tax which he opposed when it first came up.

Mr. DeCosmos said however much he might have previously opposed the tax he found that the mere information of the tax paid would give a stimulus to the lumber trade on the island, and had induced one or two gentlemen to make preparations for going into the business.

Dr. Dickson took credit to himself for voting on all questions conscientiously and as he conceived for the best interests of his constituents. He took his stand upon the principle that whatever could be produced on the island should be fostered, and this was an exceptional case. He voted for the injury it would do to mills now erected at great expense, and to the fact that the mills on the island could not supply lumber for the market, and he, therefore, considered the proposed drawback a prudent measure.

Mr. McClure said that the hon. member for the District argued that the Island mills could not meet the requirements of the market, and yet he would not give them the necessary stimulus to the lumber trade. So far as injuring mills established at Burrard Inlet was concerned, when he (Mr. McClure) looked at the fate of the Alberni and other mills on Vancouver Island, he thought it was more the duty of hon. members to look after the interests of the Island than those of the mainland. He would, however, support the motion of the hon. member to allow a drawback on lumber used for boat building.

The discussion on the lumber tax resulted in a tie vote, Messrs. DeCosmos, Carswell, and McClure voting for, and Messrs. Helmecken, Powell, and Dickson voting against. The chairman gave his casting vote in favor of the tax.

An amendment introduced by Mr. DeCosmos allowing a drawback on lumber imported for shipbuilding was carried. Dr. Helmecken and Powell voting contra.

STOCK AND CATTLE ACT.
This bill passed with the reduction of the tax on much cows from \$4 to \$1 per head.

SALARIES TAX ACT.
The bill repealing this act passed, a motion by Dr. Helmecken seconded by Dr. Powell that the Committee rise having been lost.

£50,000 LOAN.
Dr. Helmecken would again bring forward the motion that the House do not assent to leaving a deficit unprovided for. The British Columbia light-house debt would never be brought to the credit of this colony this year.

The hon. member of the city was mistaken in supposing that despatches had been received from the Imperial Government to the effect that British Columbia should pay this amount.

Mr. DeCosmos asserted positively that he had been told as chairman of the Finance Committee by the Colonial Secretary that such despatches had been received, and that the money would be paid.

Dr. Helmecken said he had always been sceptical on the subject, but having gone to the Colonies and heard the Colonial Secretary to himself (Mr. DeCosmos) and the member for Lake, The Colonial Secretary not only had told him such despatches had been received, but that the money would be paid.

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TELEGRAPHIC.

(From the *Columbian*.)

Eastern News.

NEW YORK, March 6.—L. Cohen, clerk for Duncan, Sherman & Co. was arrested for abstracting \$4,000 in United States bonds deposited by travellers abroad as collateral. Letters of credit Cohen confessed his guilt and says he has been engaged in ruinous stock speculations.

Extensive frauds having been perpetrated on the revenue by beer brewers of the city and Brooklyn, the Government have instituted rigorous enquiry which occasions a panic among the suspected.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The Secretary of the Treasury has ordered an action to be entered against Gen. H. D. Muzzey, late Private Secretary to the President, to recover \$28,000 alleged to have been abstracted from the recruiting service while on duty at Nashville.

NEW ORLEANS, March 6.—A quarantine of five days is decreed on all vessels arriving from the West India Islands, to prevent the introduction of cholera.

MEXICO.

NEW YORK, March 8.—Mexican advices say Belgian troops refuse to serve under the Emperor Maximilian, and that the Belgian prisoners should be shot in retaliation. Marshal Bazaine wanted to make an example of them, but the Emperor interfered. The Belgians say they are willing to go home in disgrace.

WAR IN PARAGUAY.

NEW YORK, March 7.—Buenos Ayres advices of January 24th, say both belligerents were engaged in preparations for an active campaign in Paraguay, which was expected to commence in about a month. The allied armies were still being reinforced, and about 45,000 men at Paro-de-la-Platte. The Brazilian Government was firm in demanding the repulsion of Lopez as the basis of any peace negotiations. The Brazilian fleet of fifteen gunboats, was at Corrientes awaiting high water in the Paraguay River.

An amendment introduced by Mr. DeCosmos allowing a drawback on lumber imported for shipbuilding was carried. Dr. Helmecken and Powell voting contra.

STOCK AND CATTLE ACT.
This bill passed with the reduction of the tax on much cows from \$4 to \$1 per head.

SALARIES TAX ACT.
The bill repealing this act passed, a motion by Dr. Helmecken seconded by Dr. Powell that the Committee rise having been lost.

£50,000 LOAN.
Dr. Helmecken would again bring forward the motion that the House do not assent to leaving a deficit unprovided for. The British Columbia light-house debt would never be brought to the credit of this colony this year.

The hon. member of the city was mistaken in supposing that despatches had been received from the Imperial Government to the effect that British Columbia should pay this amount.

Mr. DeCosmos asserted positively that he had been told as chairman of the Finance Committee by the Colonial Secretary that such despatches had been received, and that the money would be paid.

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